

2006 PROPOSED PARKS AND
RECREATION BOND REFERENDUM
IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

ADA IMPROVEMENTS

HISTORY:

In July 1992, the City of Wilmington's American With Disabilities Act Transition plan was developed in accordance with Subtitle A of Title II of the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. In November of 2004, the City contracted with the MAG Group, a local architectural firm to review and report any ADA compliance issues at City facilities. Thus far reports have been completed on the Martin Luther King Center, Empie Park, Dram Tree Park, Maides Park, Fit for Fun and Boxing Centers and at the Five Points Building located at the intersection of Red Cross, McRae and North 8th Streets.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

ADA issues exist at those facilities that hinder the accessibility to the general public. Those barriers include door thresholds, restroom facilities and sidewalks. The purpose of this project is also to create hard path systems to access park amenities. These include parking lots, shelters, ball fields and playgrounds.



ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:

The estimated project cost is **\$600,000**. This includes hard path systems and some modifications to existing facilities.

ALDERMAN NATURE PRESERVE

HISTORY:

The City of Wilmington entered into a long term agreement with the North Carolina Land Trust and the Oleander Company in 2004 to serve as the active manager and site developer of a 39 acre site located adjacent to Alderman School on Independence Boulevard. Under this agreement, the city will work cooperatively with the Land Trust through a conservation easement granted by the property owner.

The property agreement calls for the limited development of the site. The limited use of the property shall be confined to passive recreational activities and environmental education.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Under the strict limitations of the lease agreement the property will be developed for passive and environmental education use.



ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$200,000

ANNEXATION PARKS

HISTORY:



In 1995, the City of Wilmington adopted a two-phase annexation program that included 27 square miles of urbanized land adjacent to the City. The first annexation, termed the 1995 Annexation, which included 10 square miles and approximately 10,000 residents, became effective on January 31, 1999.

The 1998 Annexation Area encompassed about 9.27 square miles and approximately 13,000 residents. This area is roughly bounded by Wrightsville Avenue-Bradley Creek to the north, the Intracoastal Waterway to the east, City limits to the west, and Lansdowne Road-Navaho Trail-Whiskey Creek on the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will provide 4 neighborhood parks comprised of approximately 5 acres in the 1995 and 1998 annexation areas. Note the acreage of park may be larger dependent upon the available land. Also, specific properties will not be identified to protect the purchase price of properties.

Amenities at parks less than 4 acres may include:

- Playground equipment
- Picnic shelter
- Grassy area
- Benches

Amenities at parks greater than 4 acres may include:

- Playground equipment
- Picnic shelter
- Grassy area
- Parking lot
- Basketball courts
- Restrooms
- Lighted area

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$2,500,000

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD COMPLEX

HISTORY:

In the early 1970s, Wilmington had seven regulation softball fields. In 2005, there are no lighted, regulation sized adult softball fields in New Hanover County. The 2 fields remaining from the 1970s are located at Empie Park and are 30 feet short of meeting the distance requirements for adult softball. The adult softball program including the morning senior softball leagues numbers over 90 individual teams that play in organized leagues from March 1st through November 30th.

During the 1970s, the annual Azalea Festival Softball Tournament drew over 200 teams and 3,000 players from all over the southeast United States to Wilmington each April. Wilmington is one of the few cities of comparable size that does not have a softball complex capable of hosting large numbers of teams. Florence, Myrtle Beach, Tarboro, Raleigh, Rock Hill, Savannah, Asheville, Goldsboro, Burlington, Greensboro, and many others have multi field complexes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



Office space, concession facilities and restrooms would be located. Each field would be built to a minimum of 310 feet to allow adult softball, girl's softball, and youth baseball use of the fields. One stand alone adult baseball field (350' fence line) to assist Godwin Stadium in hosting high school age and adult baseball.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:

\$6,000,000

BIKE/HIKE CONNECTOR TRAILS

HISTORY: Bicycle facilities promote alternative methods of transportation and reduce traffic congestion, provide areas for citizens to exercise and recreate and attract economic benefits through tourism. The Wilmington Metropolitan Area Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and the Greater Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization have both formally recognized the need for additional bicycle facilities in the area, especially those that connect public areas. On August 3, 2005, The BAC adopted an updated Bike Facilities Priorities List. Priority #8 on the priorities list is a connector multi-use path between Halyburton Park and the new park behind Alderman Elementary. Among other priorities are:

- A continuous and direct system of regional bicycle facilities within the Greater Wilmington Urban Area.
- Establish a system of regional bicycle facilities within the Greater Wilmington Urban Area that provides an adequate level of service to meet regional bicycling mobility needs...
- Promote bicycle connectivity in and around schools, parks and major destination areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Working on the recommendations of the BAC and with the public and private sector to obtain land use privileges, the City is proposing to install bike lanes and bike/hike paths to connect public parks, schools, and other public-use areas. Examples of such connector paths are:

- A multi-use path connecting Halyburton Park to the new nature park behind Alderman Elementary. Ideally this connector path would include a pedestrian bridge over Shipyard Boulevard.
- A multi-use path along an easement that would provide connectivity between the property behind Alderman Elementary to Roland-Grise Middle School and the New Hanover County Senior Center.



Multi-use path at Halyburton



Easement off Fordham Rd.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$1,000,000

DOWNTOWN PARKS

HISTORY:

Property in downtown Wilmington is quickly being developed leaving little room for greenspace. The Vision 2020 plan calls for a series of parks within the City to provide places for people to recreate or to just sit and enjoy. Greenspace enhances the quality of life for residents of the downtown area, tourists and visitors. From the Vision 2020 plan-“...parks and open spaces for public use and enjoyment have tangible benefits, often stimulating other uses and increasing the value of an area.”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will include both the acquisition of as-of-yet unidentified property, and the renovation of existing City-held property. The sites under consideration for renovation include Dram Tree Park, Thalian Hall's parking lot, and Hilton Park.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$1 million

Dram Tree:

- Clearing parking lot for greenspace
- Landscaping

- Park furniture

Hilton:

- Land clearing
- Park furniture

Thalian Hall:

- Clearing parking lot for greenspace
- Landscaping
- Partial parks position

Unidentified property acquisition:

- Clearing & Landscaping
- Park furniture



DRAM TREE



THALIAN HALL



HILTON PARK

GREENFIELD LAKE PARK

HISTORY:

The current amphitheater structure at Greenfield Lake Park was built in 1962. Over the past several years, the City has attempted to secure funding for renovations to this enjoyable piece of culture at the park. However despite numerous attempts at grants, the project has not been funded.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:



This project consists of improvements to existing park resources including the completion of the Greenfield Park Amphitheater. The Amphitheater is used for several events, including Shakespeare in the Park plays and as a central meeting location for road races and walk-a-thons. Additionally this project includes the renovation of the restroom facility to meet ADA standards (a paved walk around the side of the amphitheater provides

accessible entrance for individuals with disabilities, but there are no accessible toilets or door handles.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$500,000

Funds to supplement current balance (\$350,000) in project for completion of renovation of amphitheater and renovation to park facilities.

LOVE GROVE

HISTORY:

In May 2002, City Council initiated the Northside Community Plan process that resulted in the Northside Community Development Plan in July 2003. This plan for the redevelopment of the Northside includes the Love Grove neighborhood and landfill. The Love Grove landfill, approximately 20 acres, was used by the City as a disposal site for household garbage and white goods until the 1960's.



In September 2002, the US EPA awarded a \$100,000 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot project grant supplemental to the City for a Phase II ESA (Environmental Site Assessment) and greenspace redevelopment plan for the Love Grove landfill. The site assessment was conducted in 2004 by Mactec Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (MACTEC), a local engineering firm. The City has gained citizen feedback through meetings with the Love Grove Association (neighborhood group) and has created a redevelopment plan for the project area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Funding for canoe/kayak launch, parking and trails.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$400,000

MAIDES PARK

HISTORY:

Public meetings were held during the early months of 2005 with residents of the east side of Wilmington that had formed a group called the *Friends of Maides Park*, to discuss ideas about planning for future improvements at the park. The mission of this group is to design a park that promotes community wellness through the development of a quality recreational environment that will benefit not only the residents of East Wilmington, but also the entire community.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project would include numerous elements to further enhance the existing park area. The Friends of Maides Park met and prioritized a list of amenities provided through a questionnaire format that was created and analyzed by a local registered landscape architect familiar with the project and reported back to City staff.

Phase I of the project is already included in the FY 05/06 CIP and includes a water fountain and a combination shelter, restroom, storage facility.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$900,000

- Expansion of Davis Center (\$425,000)
- Parking lot (\$150,000)
- Park and athletic field lighting (\$120,000)
- Sidewalks & walking trails (\$120,000)
- 4-Picnic shelters w/ grills (\$80,000)
- Play equipment w/swings (\$50,000)
- Athletic field seating (\$10,000)
- Park gate w/ new sign (\$5,000)

MAIDES PARK



MARTIN LUTHER KING CENTER RENOVATIONS



HISTORY:

The MLK Center was built in the early 1970's. The center is located at 8th and Ann Streets. The center was designed to improve recreation support activities in the neighborhood. The center includes classroom space, a small gymnasium, tennis courts, a playground, and baseball fields.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- Upgrading existing facility.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$600,000

Funding will renovate existing building.

NATATORIUM

HISTORY:

The City of Wilmington currently operates three outdoor swimming pools during the summer months. Non-summer month facilities in the City include the YMCA, YWCA and UNCW. Each of the indoor facilities is heavily utilized and pool time is difficult to obtain.

The combined resources of the three indoor facilities are challenged by a strong demand for pool time represented by the following use groups:

- Growing UNCW student/faculty population
- Citizens of city/county seeking recreational and fitness pool time
- Four New Hanover County high school swim teams
- Specialized water-related programs (NHRMC rehab, CFCC scuba programs, etc)
- Private swim teams
- New Hanover County schools Learn-to Swim program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A collaborative effort involving several organizations and agencies will work cooperatively to develop an operational unit for both management and financing. The partners in the group may include:

- City of Wilmington
- UNCW
- YMCA
- YWCA
- New Hanover Regional Medical Center
- Cape Fear Community College
- New Hanover County Schools



ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$ 700,000

Funding to be used for seed money in conjunction with possible land use and funds from other sources

NORTHSIDE AQUATICS FACILITY

HISTORY: The City currently owns and operates three swimming pools through out the City. The Northside Swimming Pool is the least utilized of the three. For the past several years, attendance has averaged 1400 per season compared to our other pools which average 7000 per season. There currently are some structural concerns related to ground water seepage at Northside. The existing pool house is in need of upgrades in order to meet the Health Department codes related to public swimming facilities.

Splashpads are automated, interactive aquatics play areas for the whole family. They are fully draining surfaces with water features such as water umbrellas, power geysers, and dumping buckets. They continue to spread in popularity across the US.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The options for this project include

- Repair refurbishment of existing/pool and facility **OR**
- The development of a Splash Pad

A Splash Pad would require:

Fill in existing swimming pool and lay pad for splash pad. Demolish existing pool house and build new restrooms. Allow for public parking at site.



ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:

Repair of Existing Pool & Facility: \$400,000

- OR -

SPLASH PAD

- Demolish existing pool house: \$2,500
- Construct new restrooms: \$100,000
- Expand parking: \$30,000
- Construction of "Splash Pad" (includes filtration system): \$250,000*
- Benches & landscaping: \$3500
- Fencing: \$14,000

*The existing filtration system may be able to be used which would reduce the construction costs

Total: \$400,000

RECREATION FACILITY LAND PURCHASE

HISTORY:

The City of Wilmington is behind both the state and national averages of parks per thousand residents based on the City of Wilmington Future Land Use Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project includes land for future park development or for supplement land needed to support recreational facilities identified in the City of Wilmington Parks Master Plan.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:

The estimated project cost is approximately **\$4.7** million dollars. This fund allow for acquisition of unnamed properties throughout the city limits to be developed in the future..

TENNIS COMPLEX

HISTORY: The City currently has 24 tennis courts throughout the City. The tennis community in Wilmington is one of the largest in the southeast. There are currently 2,160 USTA members registered in Wilmington and that only accounts for the “competitive players”, many more participate non-competitively. There currently aren’t any tennis centers in the area that alone can accommodate tournaments.



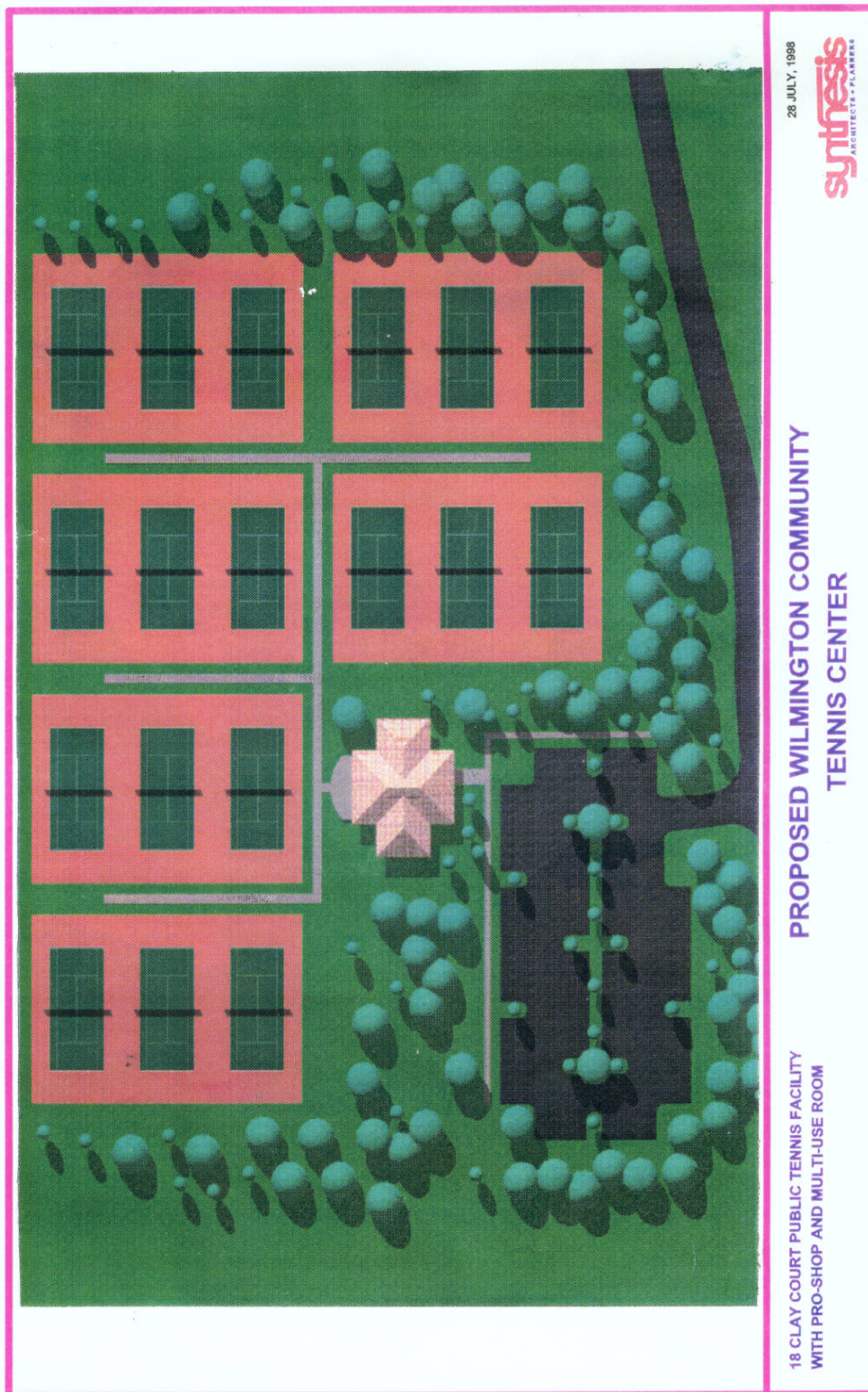
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The least expensive option would be to develop Empie Park into a tennis center. The existing playground would stay, the softball fields would be relocated to a larger piece of property to allow for expansion, and the existing basketball courts would be relocated in the park. The basketball courts would be modified into paddle tennis courts.

Proposed new elements:

- 18 additional courts (9 hard and 9 clay)
- Clubhouse with restrooms
- Expansion of parking area
- Two paddle tennis courts

ESTIMATED COSTS: \$1,500,000

TENNIS COMPLEX



10th & FANNING STREET OPERATIONS COMPLEX

HISTORY:

The City operated and maintained the operations center at the corner of 10th and Fanning Streets for over sixty years. Included on the site were three permanent buildings which housed the Fleet garage, Stormwater Services and Buildings support.

The completion of the first phase of the new Operations Center on River Road began the gradual transfer of operations to the new site

The Northside Neighborhood Association has been operating from an old trailer and has expressed strong interest in relocating on this site. An evaluation of the site will be necessary in order to proceed with the accommodation of this request.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Funding to be used for seed money in conjunction with possible future development

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$100,000